13 October 1967

Dear Harold,

Last Saturday I received a note from Shirley with the horrifying news of her daughter's death. I called her at once, deeply concerned about her state after this awful tragedy. Vickie died on September 12th, after lingering for four days in great pain. Shirley was extraordinarily close to Vickie, I don't know how she will endure this blow.

Thank you for clarifying what you had in mind with respect to your unused material. The possibility of immediate use (so far as I am concerned) would depend, of course, on the nature and contents of the material. I would be inclined to think that I would be ~~[illegible]~~ be able to at least try to put the material to good use; certainly, I would like the opportunity to study it.

Let me make this suggestion: If Maggie does not accept your offer of the unpublished material, you could ship it to me at my expense, or perhaps send a sampling of it from which I could indicate whether or not the remainder would be of interest with a view to "good use." If Maggie does want the material, on the understanding that I would receive a duplicate set, then she and I could share the cost of xeroxing a second set, and of course I would still assume any other costs of the material I receive, whether mailing or other expense.

Whatever is done with this material and whether or not my suggestion is acceptable to you, Harold, I do want you to know that I greatly appreciate your expression of confidence in me in terms of my ability to use it and the fact that I would not misuse it. I think you know the extent to which I have always striven for strict accuracy and the importance I attach both to accuracy and responsibility in any pronouncements about the evidence. I would certainly make every effort to use the unpublished material in a thoroughly responsible way, and it goes without saying that in any use of it I would make it clear that the material had been placed at my disposal by yourself.

Incidentally, about the Vietnam tax: I find myself in a very peculiar position. I would like to withhold mine also, but I pay taxes under an arrangement peculiar to the international civil service, with which you may be familiar. I am stationed in New York, where I am liable to city, state, and federal income tax. Other WHO staff members who may be called my "opposite numbers" (in that they are doing the same kind of work at the same grade and salary) are stationed in Geneva or other cities where there is no income tax at all due (because the host country has signed the Convention on Privileges and Immunities, which the USA has not signed, exempting UN and the agencies attached to it from such obligations as tax). Consequently, to avoid the inequity which would result if I paid out of pocket 20% of my salary for income taxes while my colleague in Geneva kept her whole salary, the WHO pays the tax due on the salary I receive. And I am unable to withhold from the Government a tax actually paid by WHO. That is why I was unable to sign the form I received from Ramparts. But I am certainly with you and Bob Ockene in your feelings on this issue and have great respect for your decision. Thanks again for offering me the unpublished material and I want to emphasize again that if we come to any arrangement, I do not want it to entail any expense whatsoever on your part. All best regards,

Sylvia